



Despite stormy skies, Aruba hosts another successful International Pro-Am Tournament at Tierra Del Sol

For the first time in its thirteen-year history, the Aruba International Pro-Am Golf Tournament experienced a washout due to weather on Sunday, August 26, but the 155 participants and their guests enjoyed an elegant closing awards dinner at the Ventanas Del Mar Restaurant in high spirits.

Based on the results of Saturday's play, three top pros and three teams of amateurs claimed the rewards for their skill, and the accolades of their fellow players. Oliver Riding, Head Golf Pro of the Tierra Del Sol Country Club and Golf Course, a major sponsor of the event with the ATA and JV Oduber, N.V. announced the winners. He expressed, on behalf of the organizers and players, particular thanks to the Tierra Del Sol culinary staff for an excellent job throughout the weekend, and to his assistant pro, Heath Henrich, for making the tournament such a success.

This year, Aruba welcomed 140 golfers from Colombia, Venezuela, Holland, Curacao, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Argentina, Bahamas, and U.S.A., which joined three teams from Aruba to put 31 teams on the course on Saturday. The teams of four amateurs qualified during play-off games organized in their various countries by staff of the Aruba Tourism Authority. Aruba hosted an impressive list of internationally known golf pros that played along with each team. Oliver Riding captained a team from Aruba, which won fourth place.

Winning teams from third to first place were: J.V. Oduber of Aruba captained by Robert Ames, one of the three Curacao teams captained by Berti Con, and in first place, one of the five teams representing Puerto Rico, consisting of Carlos Morales, Miguel Omedo, Joe Quinones, and Phillip de Sousa (of Aruba) with golf pro Aaron West. All received beautiful trophies as a remembrance of this year's competition.

Winning individual golf pros received cash prizes for their scores, and Aruba can be proud of Adam Williamson, Head Pro of The Links at the Divi, the island's famed nine-hole course, for taking first place. Making the awards dinner additionally memorable for Adam is the fact that it was on the eve of his wedding to the lovely Undina, and as an additional prize, he received a memorable kiss from his bride to be.

Tied with Adam with an individual score of seventy was internationally renowned golf champion Jesus Amaya, winner of the Venezuelan Open this year, and captaining the team from Colombia. A review of the scorecards won him second place, and Otto Solis of Venezuela, who captained the Aruban team co-sponsored by Amazonia restaurant and Ling & Son's Supermarket, took third place. Winners of the "Longest Drive" prize were Pizzolante Nicholas and "Nearest to the Pin," Carlos Morales.

This was a landmark tournament for Aruba, in that it hosted one of the largest delegations, and experienced their first cancelled day of play. Participants report the unfortunate weather did not dim their enjoyment of the event, and most reported looking forward to next year, to which Frank Russich of JV Oduber, N.V. already pledged their sponsorship. Congratulations to all the winners, Aruba will see you again next year!